

Washington, DC - Harry Teague is encouraging active duty soldiers or veterans whose service in Iraq or Afghanistan was involuntarily extended, a policy known as "Stop Loss", to apply for compensation available to them through the Department of Defense. Any service member who was stop-lossed during their service may be eligible to receive a monthly back-pay of \$500. While Congress established this payment in the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act, supported by Teague, over 100,000 eligible active and retired service members have not applied for their benefits.

**The last day to apply for this retroactive payment is October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.**

"The men and women that volunteer to join the military make great sacrifices in service to our country and they deserve to receive the compensation they have earned for bravely serving to defend our nation," said Harry Teague. "The dedication these troops showed by continuing to serve their country is admirable and I think it's our job to make sure that they are fairly compensated for the extra time they spent bravely serving our country overseas. I strongly encourage any soldier who served for an extended period of time to apply to receive these benefits."

As a result of the "Stop Loss" policy enacted after September 11, 2001, hundreds of thousands of service men and women had their tours of duty involuntarily extended to ensure that troop levels were high enough to successfully combat terrorism. The Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay is available to service members of every military branch who had their enlistment extended or retirement suspended due to Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible service members will receive \$500 for every month they were kept on active duty past their discharge date.

Applications are available by visiting the Department of Defense's website at [www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss). Any

service members or veterans needing assistance filing a claim to receive their stop-loss compensation can contact Harry Teague's office at 1-888-9-TEAGUE or online at [www.teague.house.gov](http://www.teague.house.gov)

.

###